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Russia appears to have arrived unaided at an "understanding" regarding Turkey and unfortunately Turkey seems to be the only power that is able to understand it, observes the Chicago Tribune.

It is said the census to be taken in Russia next year will be the first in over forty years and may be out down as another evidence that Russia intends to be included hereafter among the nations that count.

The Chicago News Herald remarks that this is a euphemistic age. A thief nowadays is called a "kleptomaniac," a murderer is called a "psychic epileptic" and an alderman is called "one of our best citizens."

The United States Deep Waterways Commission is in session at Detroit to consider the feasibility of a ship canal from the great lakes to the Atlantic Ocean. A joint session will be held with the Canadian Commission.

The Memphis Commercial Appeal suggests a horse show for its town, but the Galveston News says there are not a dozen gowns in Memphis that cost \$1,000 and, therefore, it is not likely that a horse show there would be a success.

The treacherous Zertucha, after thinking it over for two weeks, has written out a pretty but ill balanced story of Maceo's death, being disheartened by dissensions in the Cuban ranks. Cubans denounce the story as a fabrication.

As between lopping off the heads of government employees because of their financial views and refusing to confirm appointments for the same reason, there is but little choice. It is small business all around, observes the Washington Post.

There is no telling how much the fifteen million dollar failure of the Bank of Illinois and the \$150,000,000 failure of the Bank of Minnesota would have amounted to had Mr. Bryan been elected, very properly observes an exchange.

A Washington dispatch gives what reports to be the substance of an interview with Senator William V. Allen, of Nebraska, in which that gentleman is made to announce that he is willing to resign from the Senate at any time William J. Bryan wants his seat.

A contemporary is unable to understand why the newspapers call ex-Queen Lilliuokalani "Mrs. Dominis," and overlook the fact that Queen Victoria is "Mrs. Wettin." That is easy enough. Lilliuokalani is out of a job, remarks the Washington Post.

General Johnson says that Cuba has a better government than this country had when declared free, and he ought to know what he is talking about, for he has been a soldier and was in Cuba long enough to inform himself as to the situation, says the Baltimore Herald.

A dispatch from Lincoln, Nebraska, is quoted as saying if Mr. Bryan finds "that he is looked upon as making a show of himself for money, or is advertised in anything like a sensational way, or if his contract is peddled about for money making purposes, he will cancel the agreement."

According to the Brooklyn Eagle mankind got excited in a Brooklyn theatre on Christmas night and loudly demanded that womanhood should take off its hats. The yells of rage at the hats, and the cheers that followed as the hats came off were pretty plain indications of popular sentiment on this question.

THE TRADE MOVEMENT OF NORFOLK.
In another column will be found an excellent article from the New York Sun, commenting fully and favorably on the recent review by The Virginian of the trade movement of Norfolk. The Sun asserts that the review presents "a picture that is not without its interests to the Union." The figures presented, remarks the Sun, "afford the necessary warrant for the expectation that the business of 1897 will treble that of 1895." In this warrant the Sun is not mistaken. It rather underestimates what the growth of the trade of Norfolk will be. The conspicuous mention by our contemporary of our growth and development is most gratifying and will attract attention and consideration on the part of those whose attention and consideration are weighty and far-reaching in all that relates to commerce and trade.

PREDICTING GOOD TIMES.
The Philadelphia Inquirer sees in the increase of the export business of the country a harbinger of good times. It says also that the Treasury income has once more nearly approached the expenditures, the deficit for the month to date being but \$1,800,000, while the Treasury gold reserve has gained nearly \$1,750,000 during the week, and now stands at \$155,750,000.

It adds further that money rules easy and that the bank failures in the Northwest have failed to produce any general alarm in other sections. The lesson that may be drawn from the recent course of the markets, it thinks, is that prosperity will come slowly; that we have a splendid basis for it, and that the general conditions are favorable, but time is needed. Good times is what we all are hoping for and the sooner they come the better.

DISAPPEARED FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

The Island of Juan Fernandez—Robinson Crusoe's land—has disappeared from the face of the earth. According to the Savannah News the captain of a vessel which arrived at Lisbon recently reported that he saw the island blown to pieces by a volcanic eruption, and another sea captain who arrived at San Francisco the other day declares the island is gone, and that he believes the other captain's story.

There is no other news concerning the sinking of the island, but it is quite possible that it has disappeared, for the reason that volcanic and earthquake disturbances have been known to destroy islands before. Then considering the situation, why not Juan Fernandez as well? The fact that the island was of volcanic origin renders the report of the disappearance not improbable. It will be recalled that some ten or twelve years ago a volcanic outburst occurred at Krakatau, off the Coast of Java, when many miles of land were subsided in the sea and many were lost. In fact, history furnishes other instances of the kind, and while earthquakes and volcanic disturbances have not been as serious in late years as was the case many years ago, yet the action of the volcanoes on the Mediterranean shores, even during the present century, shows how possible it is for Juan Fernandez to have been destroyed as reported.

AS TO HAMS.

The Charleston News and Courier, which has been endeavoring for some time to raise the "razor back hog" of South Carolina from his long time degenerate state, now rejoices in the knowledge that its four footed friend has been redeemed from the reproach which it has borne so long and so uncompromisingly.

Our contemporary started out with the purpose of doing something to the advantage of the much neglected pig of "the Palmetto State," and those who were to eat thereof, and its efforts have been crowned with success in that the people of South Carolina are now enabled to eat juicy hams heretofore unknown to them. In fact, it has done wonders in inducing the farmers of its State to make better hogs, and, therefore, better meat, but it makes a mistake when it goes on to compare the "Palmetto" hams with those of Old Virginia. There is no question that the farmers of the South have not given that attention to the proper feeding and the proper raising of hogs that they should, that a better flavor of meats might be obtained, and the fact coming to the knowledge of the News and Courier, it at once undertook to remedy the fault with the result of bringing about an improvement in hog raising in more than one State. For this much it should be thanked, but don't let it compare the South Carolina ham to that of Virginia. Its wrong, though our contemporary may not know it.

But our quarrel is not alone with our Charleston contemporary. The Augusta Chronicle makes the same mistake of comparison that it does, and the Chronicle should not permit itself to be led astray by any such a quotation as this: "We have heard from the News and Courier, 'how the Georgia and South Carolina razor back hog can, by sweet potato diet, be converted into a more than rival of the renowned Virginia meat.'"

Now this may seem alright, but it isn't. No matter how they look at it, no Georgia or South Carolina "razor back hog," raised on sweet potato diet, will afford ham meat half so toothsome

as the Virginia ham—they may be fed on honey and molasses and still not be so sweet.
The Chronicle goes out of its way moreover when it says the Virginia ham is flat and fat. Did the editor of our Georgia contemporary ever stick his tooth in a regular juicy Smithfield ham from Old Virginia? If not his evidence is of no value and will have to be thrown out until he does.
Kaiser William, Gladstone and Bismarck have been known to have the Virginia Smithfield ham sent them as something in the meat line extremely elegant, and Queen Victoria eats them regularly. Then, you talk about the Georgia and South Carolina ham. There are hams and there are hams, but the Virginia ham "takes the cake."

NOTES AND OPINIONS.

The curfew ordinance has been declared unconstitutional in Omaha, Neb. The railways in Newfoundland are to be amalgamated and taken under government control.

A proposition to organize forty counties in Western Kansas into four large ones is being agitated in that State.

An international congress is to take place at Brussels next summer for the purpose of discussing the subject of accidents to workmen.

A Prosperous Newport.

(From New York Sun, 28th.)

Our esteemed contemporary, The Norfolk Virginian, in reviewing a year's trade at that growing seaport, presents a picture that is not without its interest to the Union. The trade movement of Norfolk is not yet absolutely large; the total outward value for the year was under \$12,000,000, but for the year before the total was under \$6,000,000. The striking matter in this showing is the rate of increase; the export more than doubled. The figures further show that by far the greater part of the increase was secured during the last half of the year. Moreover, that rate of export during these later months was such that if maintained during the coming year the total for 1897 would double that for 1896; or, in other words, would be quadruple the export of 1895. On general principles a result so extreme as this seems unlikely to be attained. On the other hand, the figures afford the necessary warrant for the expectation that the business of 1897 will be treble that of 1895. As an example of mere increase the case of Norfolk is typical of those of New Orleans, Wilmington, Galveston, Mobile, Charleston and Savannah, though, except as to New Orleans, the scale of Norfolk's operations is a much larger one. Comparing her movement with that of Baltimore, we find the Census of Virginia to have become one of the largest sea outlets in the entire country.

But a further inspection of our contemporary's figures shows steamships regularly laid on for Liverpool, Bremen, Hamburg, Leith, Belfast, Dublin, Glasgow, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Antwerp, Bristol and London. The interest in the enumeration lies in the fact that it shows all of Norfolk's necessary connections for the export trade north of Bordeaux to have been already established. The only part of the first consequence omitted is the name. The manager of one of the freighting companies is quoted by our contemporary as saying, "We will send ships to all the Atlantic and Mediterranean ports. The great objective next to be reached with American cotton at a moderate freight rate is Japan." If a favorable connection with the new Japanese line could be made at a Mediterranean port the business must attain handsome proportions. The only competing route for some time should be via San Diego for the trans-Mississippi staple. But that route cannot soon become a cheap one for want of general trade.

Much the most interesting feature of this Norfolk exhibit is found in the details of the cargoes. While cotton and corn are still the staple, neither show any such relative increase as meat products, to which iron pig has lately been added as an item by no means insignificant. Norfolk had secured a respectable cattle trade several years ago, but the addition of packing-house products in large quantities is the new thing. Thus our contemporary leads us up to a concluding paragraph under the title "The Greater Norfolk," in which the spirit of prophecy hits its lay to the sound of the timbrel. Yet in this triumphant note there seems a spirit of sweet reasonableness. The Greater Norfolk is to be understood as embracing Gosport and Portsmouth, and apparently some villages of only local importance. It is pointed out that the population within a radius of three or four miles around Norfolk Courthouse now numbers 150,000 souls—a fair start, it will be allowed, on the road to becoming a place; an especially fair start on the part of a spot that, setting out to do the trade yearly, makes an initial success in the effort. Baltimore, not New York, is the prototype of the kind of growth that lies before Norfolk, a fact akin to that once borne in upon an improvident hare who raced a tortoise.

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